

money and re-deposit it at another window. Fortunately the festival of Michaelmas, during which the bank was usually closed, intervened and when it was over the public alarm had subsided.

The bank had weathered severe storms, had seen two powerful rivals crushed and its own monopoly confirmed, and justly felt that it had proved its capacity to endure. Thirty-eight years after its foundation, on Thursday, August 3, 1732, the corner-stone of a new building was laid in the presence of the Governor and other officials of the bank in Threadneedle Street. The directors moved from their old quarters in Grocers' Hall on June 5, 1734, and from that day ' *The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street*' occupied the massive building which is still consecrated to her use.¹ A statue of King William, under whom the first charter was granted, stands in the hall, with a Latin inscription which accords to him the honor of official founder of the bank.

When the time approached for a renewal of the charter in 1742, the bank advanced £1,600,000 to the government without interest by a call upon their proprietors for £840,000, which raised their capital stock to £9,800,000. The advance without interest was substantially part of a process of conversion by which the interest on the original advance to the government at the foundation of the bank and on £400,000 advanced in 1708 was reduced from six to three per cent. The bank simply continued to receive the old interest payment, but doubled the principal of the loan. The charter was extended at this time until twelve months notice after August 1, 1764. Another adjustment with the government in 1746 led to the cancellation of £986,000 of Exchequer bills, upon which the bank was to receive an

¹ The buildings have been much enlarged since and now cover the whole area between Threadneedle Street, Princes Street, I/othbury and Bartholomew Lane,—a space of more than three acres. The bank originally employed about fifty clerks, but the number is now about fifteen hundred and the pay-roll amounts to about £300,000, exclusive of £50,000 paid annually in pensions.—H. J. W. Dam, *The Bank of England*, *McClur&s Magazine*, IV. 460.